

**Before the
FEDERAL COMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION
Washington, D.C. 20554**

In the Matter of:)	
)	
Nomination for Universal)	CC Docket Nos. 96-45
Service Administrator's Board of Directors)	and 97-21

NOMINATION

General Communication, Inc. (GCI), an interexchange carrier with annual operating revenues of less than \$3 billion, hereby nominates Chris Nierman to represent such carriers on the Universal Service Administrator's Board of Directors.

In addition to providing interexchange service, GCI provides services in Alaska as a competitive local exchange carrier ("CLEC"), a facilities-based wireless provider, and an Internet service provider. GCI is a designated Eligible Telecommunications Carrier (ETC) in most of Alaska and participates in the high-cost, low-income, E-Rate, and rural health care Universal Service Fund (USF) support programs.

As GCI's Senior Counsel, Federal Regulatory Affairs, Mr. Nierman has extensive experience with each of the four USF programs and an intimate knowledge of the Federal Communication Commission's recent USF reforms and implementation issues that the Administrator faces. Thus, in addition to understanding how changes to the high-cost program are impacting interexchange carriers, Mr. Nierman is also familiar with many of the most pressing questions before the Commission and the Administrator across the USF program spectrum.

Mr. Nierman is eager to use his experience and judgment to help resolve challenges currently facing the Administrator. In particular, he is committed to improving the operation of current programs, navigating the Administrator through compliance with recent or future changes in the programs, and building a productive, efficient working relationship between the Administrator and the Commission.

Prior to joining GCI, Mr. Nierman was an attorney at Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP (formerly Harris, Wiltshire & Grannis, LLP), handling a wide range of telecommunications and appellate matters, including USF compliance, disputes, and reform proceedings. I refer to you the attached professional biography for additional information regarding his professional experience and educational background.

Based on the foregoing, GCI respectfully requests that Mr. Nierman be nominated to serve on USAC's Board of Directors for the coming term.

Respectfully submitted,

GENERAL COMMUNICATION, INC.

/s/ _____
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